

# Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning

*Integrating technology to improve student achievement*



Blackboards and workbooks are giving way to interactive whiteboards; students may learn via computer from instructors across the state, the nation or the world. Technology has forever changed the way we learn—while technology itself is forever changing. How can Michigan educators learn to effectively use technology to improve student achievement?

The Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) is there to support them. A non-profit organization established in 1975, MACUL assists the education community—from preschool through college level—in the effective use of educational technology. MACUL has more than 5,000 members and is an organizational affiliate of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

“Our members are educators who use technology to support student academic achievement,” said MACUL Executive Director Ric Wiltse. Technology should be part of every Michigan educator’s classroom, Ric added, because “the students they’re teaching are growing up in the digital age.”

MACUL provides a variety of programs and initiatives to support its members. Each spring MACUL sponsors one of the largest educational technology conferences in the country, attracting more than 3,000 attendees annually. MACUL also sponsors and participates in smaller regional conferences focusing on educational technology applications, networking, and professional development.

Through MACUL, Michigan educators also have access to training programs that help them integrate technology into the classroom. Thousands of Michigan educators have taken advantage of these programs, impacting tens of thousands of students, fellow educators and administrators. Other MACUL initiatives include grants for innovative uses of educational technology; teacher and school award programs; programs highlighting student achievement with technology; special interest groups and a bi-monthly newsletter.

MACUL relocated to Delhi Township from the Detroit area 14 years ago, a move which gave the association greater proximity to the Michigan Department of Education and provided a more central location for members throughout the state. Ric Wiltse, formerly the technical director for East Grand Rapids Public Schools, has been MACUL’s executive director for 13 years. He welcomes inquiries from educators who would like to learn more about using educational technology to help students advance.

*The Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning is at 3410 Belle Chase Way, Suite 100, Lansing, 882.1403, [www.macul.org](http://www.macul.org).*